

The German Princess Revived:
OR

The London Jilt:

Being a True ACCOUNT of the
L I F E and D E A T H
O F

Jenney Vofs,

W H O

After she had been Transported for being concerned with
Sadler about Eight Years past in Stealing my Lord Chan-
cellors *Mace*, and several times since Convicted of repeated
Felonies was Executed On *Friday* the 19th of *December*,
1684 at *TYBURN*

Published from her own Confession.

AMongst the many Instances of Persons Infamously Remarkable
for their Predatory and ill Lives, none certainly ever Surrendred
their Breath at the *Fatal Tree*, leaving behind them a Name
more generally known for all sorts of Crimes, than the Subject
we are now Treating of: Inasmuch, that but to mention *Jenny*
Vofs, is a sufficient proof thereof; she having even from her Youth follow-
ed the Thieving Trade, and grown so Famous therein, that few who live
in *London*, are Strangers to her Name and Reputation. She was as she faith
her self, Born in the Parish of *St. Giles's* in the *Fields*, of Parents Reasonably
well to Pás, and Honesty sufficient to have given them more Hopes and
Comfort than they found in their Daughter: Who tho they Lived not to
see her Fatal End, yet in the Buddings of her Youth percieving so much by
her to their great Discomfort; and almost Heart breaking, easily imagined
what Fruit she was afterwards too likely to yield. For having arrived to the

Age of Eleven Years, her Father and Mother being one Day Invited a-broad to Dinner, she took the Opportunity, and finding where her Mother had laid up some Money to the value of 30 or 40 s. upon a Shelf in the Kitchen, she took the same, together with the Handkerchief wherein it was tied, and puts them into her Pocket; but being to exercise her Wits to prevent the Discovery of this her first Crime, they stood by her in the stress, and Dictated to her the following Exploit: Her Mother had a *Monkey* which she Loved, which was usually kept in the Kitchen before mentioned, and observing that sometimes, as it is general with those Creatures, they are apt if they get Liberty, to carry away and hide what next comes before them: She accordingly lets him Loose, and drives him up into the Leads, where following him, she flings the Handkerchief in which the Money was wrapped after him, and scattering 3 or 4 pieces thereof about the Gutter, leaves him there till her Mother came in, who missing the *Monkey*, Inquires of her Daughter how it got Loose and where it was, to which she readily answered that it had knawed the Cord that tied it whilst she was Absent and had got into the Leads; the Mother suspecting nothing further went up Stairs to seek it, where looking out of Window, she espied the Handkerchief and the scattered pieces aforesaid, which made her severely angry with poor *Pugg*, and lay the Crime at his Door that was not Guilty thereof: This Exploit having thus happily succeeded, young *Fane* began to think her self Mistress of great Cunning, and several times afterwards repeating her Domestick Thievery's, was at last found out by the means of another young Wench that was a Neighbours Daughter, and a great Comrade of *Fenny's*, with whom she used to spend her Moneys, and to whose Breast she communicated all her Secrets: These two having one Day fell out upon the account of a little Jealousie between them, which was occasioned by the address of a young Apprentice Boy, (that used to call *Fenny* his Sweet Heart) to this her Comrade, with whom the Night before she had found him too Familiarly a Trifling; upon which *Fenny* was, so Enraged that she flew upon the Young Wench, and having torn her Head geer and grievously Beat her, called her whatsoever her Angry Rhetorick in the first heates of Passion dictated to her: Which her Comrade laying to Heart, not being able to revenge her self otherwise she went and immediately discovered the Secrets of all *Fenny's* Pranks to her Mother who was strangely Surprised thereat, and began to Examine her Daughter about it: who tho she absolutely denied the Fact yet it being so plainly proved against her, diverse other Circumstances corroborating the same; a severe Punishment was threatned against her, which from her Fathers Passionate humour she knew would be aggravated when he came to know her crime to whom her Mother reserved the Consideration till his coming home that Evening.

In the mean while *Fenny* being apprehensive of his Anger, was resolved whatever came of it, if she could get the opportunity, to get out and be gone, not much caring whether, so she could avoid the Storm that now Threatned her, and accordingly being Locked up in her Room, it being late before her Father Returned, her Mother going out to seek him, she packs up her Cloaths, and tying the two Sheets together slip out of the Window, and

and betook herself to her Escape, which by the favour of the Night and the haste she made, carried her the next Morning about 13 or 14 Miles out of Town as far as *Sunbury* a little Village by the *Thames-side* in *Middlesex*, where she staid the next day at a Publick House, pretending that her own Mother being Dead, and her Father Married a second Wife, she in favour of several Children which she brought him, dealt very Severely with her, which had forced her to seek her Fortune, and that she was willing to get into an Honest Service, if any such presented it self: Which a substantial Farmer in the Town hearing of took her in and Entertained her.

In this place she had not lived above a Month, when observing that several *Gypsies* used often to come and Lodge in a Barn belonging to her Master: She would often out of Curiosity only at first repair to the said *Gypsies* to know her future Fortunes, which they flattered her would be much to her Advantage provided she would Joyn with them, and take such course of Livelyhood as they did; which she was not much averse to, having noted that they lived Merrily, and wanted nothing in their Straw that might make such a Life Grateful to them, which they finding, told her if she would get what Plate or money she could from her Master that was very Rich, she should be admitted into their Number, and be made much of amongst them, appointing her the next Night to get off with the Booty, and to come to them at Midnight; and she should have a Guide to convey her to another Road far enough out of the way of her Masters Reach: To this Proposition she soon Harkned. and the next Night Robb'd the Farmer of Plate and Money to the value of 40 *l.* with which under the Conduct of a Brother *Gypsy*, who was for some time afterwards her Doxy, they Travelled through *Kingston*, in the way towards *Guilford*, where the general Meeting was concluded upon.

Being thus admitted into this Gang, the idle Life very well suited with her humour, and she was soon perfect in their manner of Conversation and Gibberidge, insomuch, that none of them was a greater Crafts Mistress in the Art of Deceit than her self, before she had been with them a Year, and had gained the Age of Sixteen, being soon after one of their chief-Ringleaders: but percieving with her self that the petty Cheats and Thievery of these her Companions, which seldom extended beyond the Roost or the Hedge, in Robbing the first of their Pullen or the last of it's Linnen, or at most now and then picking a Pocket, was much below the greatness of her Designs, which she now began to Thirst after: she resolved to take the first opportunity to desert them, and live on her own Politicks.

To which end having chosen out one of the Wittiest of these Blades that had Associated with her all along as Bedfellow: these two Plotted together, and forsook the other part of the Gang, changing their Habits and designed for the West of *England*: In which Road having Travelled for about two Days, they at last came to a Bye House upon the way, where they desired a Lodging, and of which they had been Informed as they came along that the Master was very Rich, and had a great deal of Money by him: where being Entertained, the honest Host little thinking what Guests he had; afforded the best they called for, they being very Liberal in their

Expence, Drinking and Eating Heartily: After Supper was over, wherein they had their Landlords Company, they complained they were a Weary and prepared for Bed: Where they had not lain an Hour but hearing all things quiet in the House, they slip'd out of their Beds, and getting into their Landlords Chamber, they set a Pistol to his Breast, Swearing they would certainly Murder him if he did not immediately discover where his Treasure lay: Which the old Man very unwillingly did, tho under promise of his Life, he at last condescended thereunto: Hereupon binding him Hand and Foot, they searched his Chests, and taking out to the value of 40 *l.* having secured the rest of the House in like manner, they made off, having the Night before them to Travel Forward.

But being apprehensive that as soon as the Morning came the Robbery would be Discovered, and a Hue and Cry pursue them; They therefore thought fit before they entred any House to change their Garb, and began to think how to accomplish the same, which they were not long contriving of, for at the same Instant came by two Gentlemen just in the Twilight of the morning well mounted, which when they Espied they were resolved to attack To which end the Fellow having a good Quarter staff and Jenny her Pistolls at the passage of a bridge they got up with the two Travellers, who not at all suspecting their Danger, one of them received a Blow of the Quarter-staffe, which Disinounted him, and the second imagining a greater Strength near them, surrendred himself upon Presenting Jenny's Pistol. They being thus secured they drew them aside into an adjacent Wood, where they made them Strip and and change Cloaths with them; Taking likewise all their ready Money; and tying the said Parties with their Hands behind them to two Trees; they Mounted their fresh Horses and Rid away: Whil't in the mean time the two Travellers Condoled their Condition, and could not stir till about six a Clock in the Morning, it being Summer time the Wood-Men came to Work and Loosed them, of whom they enquired the next way to the nearest Town, which being directed in, tho the same was about four Miles distant, they were resolved to make thitherwards: in the Travelling whereof, the Hue and Cry being out against Jenny and her Husband, overtakes the two Gentlemen, who having the same Garb as the Parties to them Described, they were forthwith Apprehended, and being carried before a Magistrate, notwithstanding their denial, and the Relation of the Robbery aforesaid, they were forced to put in Bail and answer the same at the next *Affizes*.

During all which time Jenny our now Knight Errant and her said Comrade Rid onward, Rejoycing in their Good Success, every Day committing some new Robbery or other, to the great encrease of their Confidence and Store. *Jane Vols* still continuing her Manlike Garb, and Travelling the Country as a Gentleman of Fortune: But as the old Proverb hath it, the Pitcher goes not so often to the Well, but it comes Broken Home at Last: So in the mid't of this Sun-shine of Prosperity, the Clouds of Adversity fell at length in showers up in her Head: For one Day going into a Fair to sell a Horse which they had worn out, in a Market Town in *Wiltshire*, the Party from whence they Stole the same came by chance thither, and owning the Horse, they were both Apprehended and clap'd into Goal.

This

This *cross*'s Adventure was not a little Bank to our two Gallants, who were miserably Loaded with *Irons*, and the *Affizes* drawing on, they began to be Apprehensive of that Fate that Threatned them, which set *Jenny's* Brains a Working how to deliver her self, she being all this while in Mans Cloaths and her Sex undiscovered, which made much for her Advantage, for being of a Comely Personage, and having the Beauty of a Woman to add to the appearance of Manhood, the same was taken notice of by the Goalers Wife, who had more than a Months mind to be dealing with her, which *Jenny* soon observed, and improved, inso much that she grew every day more in Favour than other, and at last by her means got rid not only of her own, but her Comerades *Irons*, and soon after of her Imprisonment: For the Goalers Wife being very eager to bring her supposed Gallant to her Embraces, (and withal having no good Opinion of her H. sband, who was Old and Peevish) appointed her one Evening to come to her Chamber, her Husband being out of the way; and fearing least the same should come to a Discovery, ordered the meeting to be in the Dark, and enjoined each to the other the strictest Silence Imaginable.

The hour appointed came, and *Jenny's* Husband was ordered to carry on the first scene of this Comedy, hoping thereby to accomplish both their Liberties; nor indeed was he wanting in his Part: tho it answered not his Expectations, but released *Jenny* only, for he gave the Goalers Wife the greatest Satisfaction she could hope for, apprehending it all the while to be *Jenny's* own Person, for whom she had an extraordinary Affection. And the next Morning returning her Thanks accordingly, at which time the Goalers Wife agreed to give way to her Escape, and run Fortunes with her. To Faciliate which, a Suit of Womens Apparel was provided to array *Jenny*, and the next Night appointed for her Escape, which tho she would fain have had accompanied by that of her Comerade, yet could she obtain no more than her own, the Goalers Wife being jealous, that if they went out together they would decieve and desert her: Hereupon *Jenny* was forced to leave her first pretended Husband, who the next *Affizes* suffered for the Robbery, whilst in the mean time *Jane Voss* had got far enough from the reach of her Adversary, for by the favour of the Promise aforesaid, at the Hour appointed she found the Door Opened, and the Goalers Wife ready to discharge her, telling her that there was at such a place without the East part of the Town a little House at the Sign of the *Red-Cross*, where if she tarried half an Hour she would come and bring her a Horse and *Pillion*, on which she might Ride to a Place of Safety: But *Jenny* not intending to be so Incumbred took the quite contrary Road, and Travelled with all the speed her Feet could carry her that Night, till the next Morning coming to a Town where the Waggon stood for *London*: She takes place therein as a maid that went to seek a Service in Town, and accordingly Escaped, whilst the Disappointed Goalers Wife Lamenting the Infidelity of her supposed Lover, was overtaken by her enraged Husband, who ever after made her lead a worse Life than before this Fault she had done.

But *Jenny Voss* being thus escaped got safe to *London*, where she heard of the Death of her Father and Mother, and soon after of her Nominal

nial Husband whom she left in *Goal* as abovesaid, which began a little to affect her, considering how narrowly she had Escaped what afterwards she too Fatally tasted; yet such Thoughts soon Vanished, and the sweetness she had Experienced in the former Course of Life she had now for some Years led; Induced her to follow the same for the Future; therefore soon afterwards hearing of a Service in a Family of Reputation, she works her self thereinto by a false Name, and by the first opportunity runs away, carrying with her a considerable quantity of *Plate* and Goods to a great Value: Of which being possesst she began to consider how she should dispose thereof, being a Stranger in Town and not knowing the Methods of this Trade so well as that she formerly Practiced in the Country; yet being drove to some Straits, and wanting Money, she at last ventures into a Brokers Shop about *Westminster*, where she offers some of the Goods to Pawn, where, as it hapned she lit on a Rogue for her Turn, who apprehending the Goods to be Stole, signified as much to her, bidding her not to be Discouraged, for that when she had any thing of the like Nature he would vend the same for her to Advantage: Which tho' *fine* at first denied, yet resorting afterwards to his shop and seeing others come upon the like Etrand, she grew better acquainted with him, and commenced a Friendship, which was not a little helpful to her in the ensuing course of her Thievery, for by his means she came acquainted with all the Cheats and Pickpockets in Town: Of whom she not only learned the Mystery but was soon after matriculated into their Society, and became one of their most applauded Artisans. Amongst many of whose Exploits of this kind, I shall only recount the following.

A Gentleman being with his Friend at a Tavern, and coming to pay his Reckoning found that his Pocket was Pick'd, upon which his Company seeing him Concerned, he having lost 10 *Guineys* besides Silver, began to Laugh at him, saying he had been with some Wench or other who had Robb'd him, or otherwise, it was impossible he should have lost his Money. Hereupon being in a great Fret he began to swear that it might as well have happened on any of them as himself, had they been in such a Croud as he lit upon, coming out of a Church in *London*: Upon which one of the Company replied, that he would lay any Man a Wager of 5 *l.* that no one in *England* should ever pick his Pocket, without his finding them in the Action. Say you so answers the Gentleman, I'll take you up that Wager, and lay you 5 *l.* if you carry your Watch in your Pocket for a Fortnight together, it shall be taken thence: 'Tis done answers the other and accordingly bound the Wager agreeing that if in the same time the Watch was called for, and he had not the same to produce, the Money should be Lost. The Wager being thus laid, the Gentleman goes immediately to *Newgate* and inquires for an Ingenious Pickpocket, to whom he was Directed, and by him to *Jenny Vols*, who was at large as a Person for his Turn, to whom the Gentleman goes, and who in short undertook the same; and having had sight of the Party whose Watch she was to take, she dresses her self in very good Habit, and follows the Gentleman to the *Custom-House*, where coming up *Water-Lane* she crosses his way, pretends to be in a Swoon, and falls down, hereupon the Gentleman in Civility lent her his Assistance to take her up, in which Opportunity she got her

her Booty, and soon conveyed it to the party that hired her, who hereby checked the others Confidence, and won his Wager.

By this and other Exploits *Jenny* having got in great reputation amongst her Comrades, grew immediately acquainted with the greatest of the Gang, and particularly with *Sadler* and other of his Company who stole my *Lord Chancellours Mace*, and committed diverse other Robberies; She being alwayes called to Consult when any thing of moment was to be done: Nor was less owing to her contrivance, than the success of most of their Robberies, at many of which she was her self present, Particularly that which was committed upon the Old Covetous Vic-tualler who had hoarded up 3. or 400 l. and hid the same so covertly, that tho they had broke into his house several nights, they could never find the same. Hereupon *Jenny* contrives one Evening to go and Drink at the House, and set Fire on some part of the Hangings or Wainscott, when the Old Man was within, thinking that the first thing he would strive to save would be his money; and so dogging him, they might find where the same was hoarded: Which accordingly fell out: For no sooner was Fire cryed, but away runs the Old Fellow to the House of Office which was above stairs, under the Seat whereof he had made a Cupboard, and secured his money; Which they Perceiving, quickly quenched the fire and the next Night got his money, to the Heart-breaking of the old Miser.

Another of her Famed Contrivances was that of the Doctor of *Hogsdon*, which was performed by *Sadler*: The Fact was, that *Sadler* coming to a *Goldsmith* in *London* chose a Cupboard of *Plate* of a considerable Value, which he said was for his Friend the Doctor aforesaid; to whom he went the Night before and agreed to send in a Kinsman of his whom he pretended Distracted, giving him two or three *Guineys* Earnest, and Promising him 20 l. for his Cure, and 10 s. a Week during the time he was at his House, alleadging withal that he believed the cause of his Kinsmans Distraction was the too great love of the World, for that in his Fitts he would talk of nothing but *Plate* and *Money*: Upon which the Doctor promised his Cure, and *Sadler* took his Leave, but returning presently told him he had another Favour to beg, which was that when he came with his Kinsman he might be put out of the House so as no notice might be taken of him by his Kinsman, who if he see he was about to leave him, would very unwillingly part with him, which the Doctor likewise promised. Having thus laid the matter, the next Morning he goes to the *Goldsmith*, and desires him to let his Servant go with him and carry the *Plate*, and he should have his Money, which the *Goldsmith* consented to, and accordingly the Servant went with him to the Doctors, where taking the *Plate* of him he left him walking below whilest he goes up to the Doctor, whom he acquainted that he had brought his Kinsman desiring his Care, and that he might be set out at the Back Door, which he was directed to and so got off with the *Plate*, leaving the Apprentice to be Blouded and Drenched by the Doctor, who apprehended him all the while in a great Distraction, the Young man talking of nothing but *Money* and *Plate*, which the Doctor took to be his Ravings, and accordingly Bound him in his Bed and used the means he thought proper for his Recovery, till the *Goldsmith* coming to Inquire after him, discovered the Cheat.

Thus

Thus far *Fenny* had pretty well prospered in her Affairs, now and then only clapp'd up into *Newgate*, and discharged the next Sessions: Till at length having contrived with *Sadler* the Stealing my Lord Chancellors *Mace*, some part of the same in the Search was found under her Bed: For which Fact being together with *Sadler* Arraigned, she was found Guilty, but by the Favour of the Court obtained to be Transported, as soon after she was, and accordingly served her time Beyond Sea; during which time she could not forget her old Pranks, but used not only to Steal her self, but incited all others that were her fellow Servants to Pilfer and Cheat what they could from their Master, so that he was glad to be rid of her; and the rather for that she had wheaded in a Son of the Planters, who used to Lye with her, and supply her with Moneys, which she was always averse to the want of.

After her time was out she came again for *England*, and quickly found many of her Old Comrades with whom she continually associated, resolving not to leave those Courses she had been all her Life bred in: And here I might recount a multitude more of her Robberies, which this little sheet cannot croud in; and for which reason I must omit a journey she made to *Ireland*, and a Voyage to *Holland*: in both which Places she plaid her part so cunningly that she came off with great Booties. Particularly in *Holland*, where amongst other things she cheated a *Dutch Merchant* of 3 *Great Diamonds*, and a *Pearle Neck-lace* to a considerable Vallue. But to hasten to her End which drew near: Comeing to *London* she gets in with one *Robinson* who was hanged some 4 or 5 Sessions past for Stealing of a Horse; and either taking one anothers word, or making a *Westminster Wedding* of it, they lay and companied together, till *Newgate* and the Gallies sued out their Divorce. For *Fenny* having stolen a *Silver Tankard* from one *John Warren* of *St. Olive Silver-street* in the Parish of *Cripplegate* on the 19th. day of *March* last, was found guilty of the said Fact on the 10th. day of *April* 1684. And should then have received Sentence of Death, but that she pleaded her Belly: The better to colour which, and make the Jury of Women believe she was quick with Child, tho indeed she was not, she Drank about a Gallon of *New-Ale* and *Honey*, and so decieved them, hoping in this time to gain her Pardon, tho she could not accomplish the same, there being no place found for Mercy where so great and Notorious a Criminal was concerned: Wherefore at the last Sessions in *December* she was Sentenced upon the former Indictment, and on the 19th. of the said Month Executed at *Tyburn*: At her Death she seemed to Bewail her former Life, and grieved that she had been the Cause of many Persons falling into Bad Courses, which had lead them to untimely Ends: For according to Report no less than 18 who had been her Reputed Husband's or Friends had suffered for their Robberies.

Entered according to Order.

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